Micro Finance Institutions

2985. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) how many Micro Finance Institutions are operating in the country right now;

(b) how many Self Help Groups have been formed which are linked to Micro Finance Movement in the Country; and

(c) how many families including women are covered and supported under the Micro Finance Credit system; State-wise, region-wise and district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs) are not regulated at present. As such, the Data Reporting System of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) does not generate such data. However, as per the estimates of NABARD, the MFIs of various sizes, functioning as on March 2007, is indicated in the table below:—

MFIs	Number	Client Outreach	Loan portfolio
Large	8	>1 lakh	>Rs. 100 crore
Medium	30(+)	>50K to 1 lakh	Rs. 21 cr. To Rs. 100 cr.
Small	50(+)	>25K to 50K	Rs. 3 cr. To Rs. 20 cr.
Very Small	1000(+)	<25K	<Rs. 3 crore.

(b) Since inception of the Self Help Group (SHG) — Bank linkage programme and up to 31.01.2008, 30,83,811 SHGs have been credit linked aggregating Rs. 20,342.21 crore.

(c) As on 31.03.2007, the SHG — Bank linkage programme has enabled an estimated 409.5 lakh poor households to gain access to micro finance from the formal banking system. Approximately, 90% of the SHGs credit linked to banks under the programme are women SHGs.

The Data Reporting System of RBI and NABARD does not generate such data.

Foreign exchange reserves as securities issued by U.S. treasury

2986. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a part of the foreign exchange reserves in India are held as securities issued by the U.S. Treasury;

(b) if so, the rate of return on such U.S. securities;

(c) whether any part of the Indian forex reserves was held in bonds issued by the Federal National Mortgage Association (FNMA) and Government National Mortgage Association (GNMA) in the U.S.;

(d) if so, the rationale for holding such bonds; and